

3993 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 600
Las Vegas, NV 89169-5996
Facsimile (702) 949-8321
Telephone (702) 949-8320

Robert M. Charles, Jr. NV State Bar No. 006593
Email: rcharles@lrlaw.com
John Hinderaker AZ State Bar No. 018024
Email: jhinderaker@lrlaw.com
Marvin Ruth NV State Bar No. 10979
Email: mruth@lrlaw.com

Attorneys for USACM Liquidating Trust

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

In re:

USA COMMERCIAL MORTGAGE
COMPANY,

USA CAPITAL REALTY ADVISORS,
LLC,¹

USA CAPITAL DIVERSIFIED TRUST
DEED FUND, LLC,

USA CAPITAL FIRST TRUST DEED
FUND, LLC,²

USA SECURITIES, LLC,³

Debtors.

Case No. BK-S-06-10725-LBR
Case No. BK-S-06-10726-LBR¹
Case No. BK-S-06-10727-LBR
Case No. BK-S-06-10728-LBR²
Case No. BK-S-06-10729-LBR³

CHAPTER 11

Jointly Administered Under Case No.
BK-S-06-10725 LBR

**NINTH OMNIBUS OBJECTION OF
USACM TRUST TO PROOFS OF
CLAIM BASED IN WHOLE OR IN
PART UPON INVESTMENT IN
MARLTON SQUARE LOAN**

Date of Hearing: June 14, 2011

Time of Hearing: 10:30 a.m.

Estimated Time for hearing: 10 min.

Affects:

☐ All Debtors

☒ USA Commercial Mortgage Company

☐ USA Capital Realty Advisors, LLC

☐ USA Capital Diversified Trust Deed Fund, LLC

☐ USA Capital First Trust Deed Fund, LLC

☐ USA Securities, LLC

The USACM Liquidating Trust (the "USACM Trust") moves this Court, pursuant to § 502 of title 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code (the "Bankruptcy Code") and Rule 3007 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"), for an

¹ This bankruptcy case was closed on September 23, 2008.

² This bankruptcy case was closed on October 12, 2007.

³ This bankruptcy case was closed on December 21, 2007.

order disallowing in whole or in part the Proofs of Claim listed in **Exhibit A**. These claims were filed by investors (“Direct Lenders”) against USA Commercial Mortgage Company (“USACM”) based upon an investment in a loan to MS Acquisition Company, LLC (“Borrower”). This loan was sometimes referred to as the “Marlton Square Loan” and that is how the Trust will refer to it here. This Objection is supported by the Court’s record and the Declarations of Geoffrey L. Berman and Edward M. Burr in Support of Omnibus Objections to Proofs of Claim Based Upon the Investment in the Marlton Square Loan. (the “Berman Decl.” and “Burr Decl.”).

THIS OBJECTION DOES NOT RELATE TO AND WILL NOT IMPACT THE DIRECT LENDERS’ RIGHTS TO REPAYMENT ON THE MARLTON SQUARE LOAN OR TO SHARE IN ANY PROCEEDS GENERATED FROM THE SALE OF THE REAL PROPERTY SECURING THE MARLTON SQUARE LOAN.

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I. BACKGROUND FACTS

a. The USACM Bankruptcy

On April 13, 2006 (“Petition Date”), USACM filed a voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. Debtor continued to operate its business as debtor-in-possession pursuant to sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code. Debtor’s post-petition management of the Debtor was under the direction of Thomas J. Allison of Mesirow Financial Interim Management, LLC, who served as the Chief Restructuring Officer.

USACM was a Nevada corporation that, prior to the Petition Date, was in the business of underwriting, originating, brokering, funding and servicing commercial loans primarily secured by real estate, both on behalf of investors and for its own account. That business included the solicitation of investors to purchase fractional interest in loans that

1 USACM originated and then serviced. These investors are referred to as “Direct Lenders”
2 in USACM’s bankruptcy case and in this Objection.

3 On January 8, 2007, this Court entered its Order Confirming the “Debtors’ Third
4 Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization” as Modified Herein [Docket No.
5 2376]. As part of the Plan, and pursuant to an Asset Purchase Agreement filed with this
6 Court, USACM sold the servicing rights to most of the loans it serviced to Compass
7 Partners, LLC and Compass Financial Partners, LLC (“Compass”), including the Marlton
8 Square Loan. The sale to Compass closed on February 16, 2007.

9 The USACM Trust exists as of the Effective Date of the Plan, which was March 12,
10 2007. Geoffrey L. Berman is the Trustee. Under the Plan, the USACM Trust is the
11 successor to USACM with respect to standing to seek allowance and disallowance of
12 Claims under 11 U.S.C. § 502(a).

13 Upon information derived from filings in the United States District Court, District
14 of Nevada, *3685 San Fernando Lenders Company, LLC, et al v. Compass USA SPE, LLC,*
15 *et al*, No. 2:07-cv-00892-RCJ-GWF action, the Trust believes that “Silar Advisors, LP
16 (“Silar”) financed Compass’ acquisition of the Purchased Assets, including the loan
17 service agreements in the USACM bankruptcy case and took a secured interest in those
18 Purchased Assets by executing a Master Repurchase Agreement (“Repurchase
19 Agreement”) with Compass, and by filing a UCC-1 financing statement with the State of
20 Delaware.” *Id.* Docket 1250 at 13-14 (citations to declarations omitted).

21 Further, from filings in the same action, the Trust believes that “Effective as of
22 September 26, 2007, Silar foreclosed on Compass through Asset Resolution LLC (“Asset
23 Resolution”) and took ownership of the Purchased Assets. ... Silar created Asset
24 Resolution as a ‘single purpose entity,’ conveyed all of its interests in the Repurchase
25 Agreement to Asset Resolution, and Asset Resolution properly foreclosed on the assets of
26 Compass, including the Purchased Assets.” (Citations omitted.) Asset Resolution LLC is

now a debtor in a chapter 7 bankruptcy case pending in Nevada, case no. BK-S-09-32824-RCJ, along with certain affiliates.⁴ William A. Leonard, Jr. was appointed trustee in the Asset Resolution case. On August 4, 2010, Commercial Mortgage Managers, Inc. was appointed as the servicer for the Marlton Square Loan Direct Lenders by order of the court in the Asset Resolution case.

The Trust has attempted to monitor loan collections through monitoring the district court litigation and the ARC bankruptcy case, but has received limited information concerning servicing and resolution of direct loans by Compass/Silar/Asset Resolution or their successors, including the trustee in bankruptcy for Asset Resolution. The Trust has also been in contract with Cross FLC about certain loans that it is servicing, but Cross FLC is not servicing the Marlton Square Loan.⁵ The following is the extent of the USACM Trust's information on the current servicing and status of the Marlton Square Loan.

b. The Marlton Square Loan

USACM circulated an Offer Sheet to prospective Direct Lenders soliciting funding for an acquisition and development loan to a borrower identified as "Marlton Square, LLC." A copy of the Offer Sheet is attached hereto as **Exhibit B** and incorporated by this reference. (Berman Decl., ¶ 4.) The total loan amount proposed was \$30,000,000. The Offer Sheet described the investment as a "First Trust Deed Investment" and noted that the investment would be secured by a first deed of trust on 22 acres for a mixed use

⁴ 10 90 SPE LLC, Fiesta Stoneridge LLC, CFP Gramercy SPE LLC, Bundy 2.5 Million SPE LLC, CFP Cornman Toltec SPE LLC, Bundy Five Million LLC, Fox Hills SPE LLC, HFAH Monaco SPE LLC, Huntsville SPE LLC, Lake Helen Partners SPE LLC, Ocean Atlantic SPE LLC, CFP, Gess SPE LLC, CFP Marlton Square SPE LLC, and Shamrock SPE LLC.

⁵ By Order entered on July 19, 2010 by the Hon. Robert C. Jones in United States Bankruptcy Court (Case No. BK-S-09-32824-RCJ), the servicing rights for 19 loans were transferred to Cross, FLS. The Marlton Square Loan however, was not among the loans whose servicing rights were transferred to Cross, FLS. This loan was purportedly transferred to an entity controlled by David Rentz

1 redevelopment located at the intersection of Martin Luther King Drive and Marlton Drive
2 in Los Angeles, California. The loan was intended to acquire the property, demolish the
3 existing structure(s), and prepare the site for resale to developers.

4 On August 11, 2005, Borrower made and delivered to various lenders, including the
5 Direct Lenders identified in **Exhibit A**, a “Promissory Note Secured by Deed of Trust”
6 (the “Note”) and a Construction Loan Agreement. (Berman Decl., ¶ 5.) The Note and
7 Loan Agreement provided for a loan up to the principal amount of \$30,000,000. The Note
8 was secured by a “Deed of Trust, Assignment of Rents, Security Agreement and Fixture
9 Filing” (“Deed of Trust”) that was recorded in the official records of Los Angeles
10 County, California on September 19, 2005, along with subsequent amendments thereto.
11 The Note also appears to be secured by a Guaranty signed by Christopher Hammond,
12 Marlton Square Associates, LLC, and Capital Vision Equities, LLC. (Berman Decl., ¶ 5.)

13 The USACM “Loan Summary” dated July 31, 2006 and filed in this case shows
14 that Borrower was “Non-performing” on the Note as of July 31, 2006. (Berman Decl., ¶
15 6.) During this bankruptcy case through the transfer of servicing to Compass, USACM
16 treated the Direct Lenders with respect to any interim payments by the borrower in
17 accordance with this Court’s orders and the confirmed Plan.

18 Counsel for the Trustee, based upon a review of documents recorded with the Los
19 Angeles County Records Office, has determined that the property securing the loan was
20 sold via trustee’s sale on December 29, 2010 to Marlton Recovery Partners, LLC, a
21 California limited liability company. Pursuant to the trustee’s deed, the property was sold
22 to Marlton Recovery Partners, LLC for \$20,073,583.58. At the time, the amount of the
23 unpaid debt together with costs was \$49,349,414.29.

24 c. The Marlton Square Claims

25 **Exhibit A**, attached, lists Proofs of Claim filed by Direct Lenders that appear to be
26 based upon an investment in the Marlton Square Loan. (Burr Decl. ¶ 7.) **Exhibit A**

1 identifies the Proof of Claim number, the claimant, the claimant's address, the total
2 amount of the claim and the total amount of the claim that appears to be related to an
3 investment in the Marlton Square Loan based upon the information provided by the
4 claimant. (Burr Declaration ¶ 7.) The claims listed in **Exhibit A** are referred to
5 hereafter as the "Marlton Square Claims." As required by Nevada LR 3007, a copy of the
6 first page of the proof of claim for each of the claims referenced in **Exhibit A** are attached
7 as **Exhibit C**.

8 **II. JURISDICTION**

9 The Court has jurisdiction over this Objection pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1334 and
10 157. Venue is appropriate under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409. This matter is a core
11 proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 502 and Bankruptcy Rule 3007.

12 The statutory predicates for the relief requested herein are 11 U.S.C. § 502 and
13 Bankruptcy Rule 3007.

14 **III. APPLICABLE AUTHORITY**

15 Under the Bankruptcy Code, any Claim for which a proof of claim has been filed
16 will be allowed unless a party in interest objects. If a party in interest objects to the proof
17 of claim, the Court, after notice and hearing, shall determine the amount of the Claim and
18 shall allow the Claim except to the extent that the Claim is "unenforceable against the
19 debtor . . . under any . . . applicable law for a reason other than because such claim is
20 contingent or unmatured." 11 U.S.C. § 502(b). A properly filed proof of claim is
21 presumed valid under Bankruptcy Rule 3001(f). However, once an objection to the proof
22 of claim controverts the presumption, the creditor ultimately bears the burden of
23 persuasion as to the validity and amount of the claim. *See Ashford v. Consolidated*
24 *Pioneer Mortg. (In re Consolidated Pioneer Mortg.)*, 178 B.R. 222, 226 (9th Cir. B.A.P.
25 1995), *aff'd*, 91 F.3d 151 (9th Cir. 1996).

1 **IV. THE OBJECTION**

2 The Marlton Square Loan appears to have been a legitimate, arms-length
3 transaction with a third party borrower, unrelated to USACM or its principals. In addition,
4 the Direct Lenders took a known risk by investing in a promissory note secured by a lien
5 on real property.

6 USACM is not liable for the Borrower's default, any decrease in the value of the
7 collateral, or the ultimate loss on the sale of the underlying collateral through the Trustee's
8 sale.

9 The Direct Lenders fail to state a claim because USACM does not appear to have
10 breached the loan servicing agreements with respect to collection of the Marlton Square
11 Loan. USACM was under no duty to foreclose on the collateral securing the Marlton
12 Square Loan or take any other action during its servicing of the loan.

13 **V. CONCLUSION**

14 The USACM Trust respectfully requests that the Court disallow the claims against
15 USACM listed in Exhibit A in whole or in part because those claims are based in whole or
16 in part upon an investment in the Marlton Square Loan. This objection concerns only the
17 Marlton Square Loan and not any other claims of any of the Direct Lenders. The USACM
18 Trust also requests such other and further relief as is just and proper.

19 Dated May 9, 2011

20 LEWIS AND ROCA LLP

21 By s/John Hinderaker (AZ 18024)
22 Robert M. Charles, Jr., NV 6593
23 John Hinderaker, AZ 18024 (*pro hac vice*)
24 Marvin Ruth, NV 10979
25 3993 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 600
26 Las Vegas, Nevada 89169
 E-mail: JHinderaker@lrlaw.com
 Attorneys for the USACM Liquidating Trust

Copy of the foregoing and pertinent
portion of Exhibits mailed by first
class postage prepaid U.S. Mail on
May 9, 2011, to all parties listed on
Exhibit A attached.

LEWIS AND ROCA LLP

s/ Marilyn Schoenike
Marilyn Schoenike